

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7428

UNCLAS TOKYO 07505

PASS COMMERCE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, JA, US

SUBJECT: TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE: PROPOSED THIRD MEET-
ING OF TFC SENIOR REVIEW COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 94319

1. EMBASSY HAS CONSULTED WITH MITI REGARDING THE ACCEPT-
ABILITY OF HOLDING IN TOKYO THE THIRD MEETING OF THE TFC
SENIOR REVIEW COMMITTEE (SRC) ON JUNE 16 OR 17. BOTH
NISHIYAMA AND HANAOKA INDICATE THAT THEY "WOULD WELCOME"
VISIT AT THAT TIME BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE WEIL
AND WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO SRC MEETING. NO PROBLEM FORE-
SEEN WITH HAVING TFC TOKYO GROUP MEET PRIOR TO SRC, WITH
AT LEAST ONE-DAY INTERVAL BETWEEN THE TWO MEETINGS.

2. MITI (KAWASAKI) SOMEWHAT CAUTIOUS, HOWEVER, CONCERNING
ATTENDANCE AT SRC BY CO-CHAIRMAN OF 15TH JAPAN-U.S.
BUSINESSMEN'S CONFERENCE (IWASA AND SHEPHERD). KAWASAKI
NOTED THAT SHEPHERD IS "VERY FAMOUS AND POPULAR AMONG
JAPANESE", BUT MITI WOULD NEVERTHELESS WISH TO HAVE SRC
SESSION CAREFULLY STRUCTURED INTO TWO SEPARATE PORTIONS
TO INSURE THAT BUSINESS EXECUTIVES WERE NOT INVOLVED IN
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AGENDA ITEMS WHICH WERE MATTERS ONLY APPROPRIATE FOR
GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION. THIS ATTITUDE REFLECTS
TRADITIONAL MITI APPROACH TO JAPANESE BUSINESS. CCOUNS
REPEATED HIS EARLIER ASSURANCE THAT THIS WAS THE U.S.
INTENTION, CITING INDIVIDUAL COMPANY CASES (PARA 1 REFTEL)
AS THE TYPE OF SUBJECT THAT WOULD BE PRECLUDED FROM THE
BUSINESS-ATTENDED SESSION.

3. (FYI) KAWASAKI ALSO MENTIONED TO EMBOFF THAT JUNE, FOLLOWING REGULAR SESSION OF DIET, MIGHT BE TIME FOR RE-SHUFFLING OF SENIOR MITI BUREAUCRATS AS IS NORMAL AT THAT TIME OF YEAR WITHIN GOJ MINISTRIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NO SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE WITH REFERENCE TO NISHIYAMA AND HANAOKA, BUT WISHED TO ALERT US TO THIS POSSIBILITY. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT CHANGES IN POSITION OF KEY MITI TFC OFFICIALS MIGHT ALTER MITI'S VIEWS REGARDING DATES FOR SENIOR REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING. (END FYI)

4. MITI WILL INFORMALLY SOUND OUT IWASA REGARDING HIS AVAILABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND THE SRC MEETING. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT COMMERCE DO THE SAME WITH SHEPHERD.

5. RE PARA 5(B) REFTTEL, IKEDA (PRESIDENT OF MITSUI & CO., LTD.) IS EXPECTED TO BE IN TOKYO DURING JUNE 16-17 PERIOD AND SAYS HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE MR. WEIL.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, THE EMBASSY WISHES TO PLAN PURPOSEFUL INTENSIVE SCHEDULE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN JAPAN WHERE HE HAS CREATED MANY FRIENDS AMONG THE JAPANESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, INCLUDING MR. IKEDA WHO PUBLICLY REFERS TO HIS DEEP FRIENDSHIP WITH MR. WEIL.

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7. IN ADDITION TO THE TFC/SRC MEETING, A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE VISIT SHOULD BE TO ENLIST SUPPORT AND ADVICE FOR THE OCTOBER U.S. EXPORT DEVELOPMENT MISSIONS TO JAPAN. E/CMIN IS PLANNING A "THANK YOU" RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE IKEDA MISSION THE WEEK OF MAY 15, AND WOULD LIKE TO INVITE MOST OF THEM AGAIN IN MID-JUNE TO DISCUSS THE OCTOBER MISSION. THERE WILL OF COURSE BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR MR. WEIL TO DISCUSS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING (A) THE PREFERRED DATE FOR SRC MEETING, (B) PREFERRED DATE FOR TOKYO GROUP MEETING, (C) WILLINGNESS OF SHEPHERD TO ATTEND SRC MEETING, (D) APPROXIMATE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES FOR MR. WEIL AND HIS PARTY (WITH LATTER IDENTIFIED BY NAME OR AT LEAST INDICATION OF NUMBER), AND (E) PARTICULAR AREAS OF INTEREST TO BE INCLUDED IN MR. WEIL'S SCHEDULE. MANSFIELD

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